मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (डॉ॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी): (क) इस बयान का समर्थन अथवा खंडन करने के लिए सरकार के पास डाटाबेस के आधार पर कोई सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ख) केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड परीक्षा परिणामों की घोषणा होने के पश्चात् उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं के पुनर्मुल्यांकन की अनुमति नहीं प्रदान करता है। किन्तु केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड के परीक्षा उपनियमों में अन्तर्निहित प्रावधानों के अनुसार, वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 में 10वीं तथा 12वीं कक्षा की हुई परीक्षाओं के परीक्षा परिणामों की घोषणा होने के बाद इस बोर्ड को अंकों की पुष्टि करने के लिए निम्नलिखित आवेदन प्राप्त हुए थे।

वर्ष	कक्षा 10	कक्षा 12
1995-96	16194	25465
1996-97	17074	25564
1997-98	19355	28859

(ग) कुछ क्षेत्रों में समय-समय पर मूल्यांकन के पश्चात छात्रों की उत्तर-पुस्तिकाएं दिखाए जाने की मांग बढ़ी है।

(घ) केन्द्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड ने मूल्यांकन प्रणाली में सुधार करने तथा उसमें परिवर्तन करने संबंधी उपायों पर सुझाव देने के लिए एक विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया था। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है तथा रिपोर्ट में की गई सिफारिशें बोर्ड के सक्रिय विचाराधीन है।

Educating the Children in Indian Culture by the Parents

726. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether parents in the country are not doing what is necessary to educate their children in Indian culture; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to correct the shortcomings of Indian parents?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Parents are important stakeholders in the educational system. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as revised in 1992) enshrines the importance of culture, values and aesthetic appreciation in the educational process. Parents have a crucial role to play in this connection. A Committee to spell-out Fundamental Duties which will, inter-alia, cover this area has been set up in the Department of Education.

Declaraing Darjeeling Himalayan Rail as 'Heritage Train'

737. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would declare the 'Darjeeling Himalayan Rail' connecting New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling as 'Heritage Train';

(b) whether Government would also agree to lease the railway lands on this stretch, where local people aer residing for years; and

(c) whether Government would also agree to allow the local people to use vacant stalls and sheds on this section, on lease or rental basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An application has been made to UNESCO for declaring Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as a world heritage site.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Local people are eligible to apply as and when applications are invited by the railway administration.

Transportation of Goods

738. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government during the last one year to make Railways' transportation of goods competitive to the road transportation, which includes efforts to improve timely delivery of goods, maintain charges competitiveness, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION). (SHRI RAM NAIK): Railways have taken the following steps to make rail transportation competitive, attract

more traffic to rail and improve timely delivery of goods:—

1. No general increase in freight rates was announced in the Railway Budget 1998-99.
2. Taper of Freight rates for Coal, Cement and Iron & Steel were modified to reduce freight burden on long lead traffic.
3. The freight classification of Gypsum, Limestone and Dolomite were down graded by one step to give relief of approx. 4 per cent in freight rates.
4. A scheme of volume discount has been introduced for Cement, Clinker, Sponge Iron, Iron and Steel and Iron Ore traffic during the second half of the current year to attract additional traffic to rail.
5. Concerted efforts are being made to reduce transit time and terminal detentions. Some of these include reduction in wagon turn round to 8 days in 1997-98 from 8.5 days in 1996-97, introduction of long distance closed circuit rake movement which does not require examination before 4500 kms journey, induction of diesel and electric locomotive with higher horse power and lesser maintenance requirements and reduction of roadside detachment of wagons.

Beautification of Stations and Platforms in Gujarat

739. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken to improve/ to beautify the railway stations and platforms at various stations in Gujarat, like Sabarmati, Kheda, Anand, Vadodara etc. during the last two years;

(b) whether further improvement plan has been prepared for beautification of stations and platform; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Details of works taken up/completed in Gujarat during the last two years are as under:

	Particulars of works	Anticipated cost in lakh Rs.
	Works in progress	
1.	(a) Vadodara-Providing second entry to the station from west side along with booking office.	67.68
	(b) Vadodara-Providing Kota stone flooring on platform No. 2, 3 & 4.	19.98
	(c) Vadodara-Kota stone flooring on platform No. 1	14.30
2.	Anand-Construction of new station building	39.98
3.	Nadiad-Extension of cover platform	25.61
4.	Navsari-Extension to covering over island platform No 2 & 3.	27.84
5.	Gandhi Nagar-Construction of new station building	46.21
6.	Improvement to passenger platforms at Nandesari, Bajua, Ranoli and Chhayapuri	14.20
7.	Bharuch-Kota stone flooring on platform	13.30
8.	(a) Ahmedabad-Improvement and renovation of waiting hall	14.99
	(b) Ahmedabad-Mastic asphalting on MG platform	10.00
9.	Ankleshwar-Kota stone flooring on platform	10.30
10.	Hapa-Improvement to passenger platform	9.87
	Hapa-Providing concourse hall	6.20
11.	Okhamandi-Rebuilding of station building	3.50
12.	Rajkot-Kota stone flooring on island platform	13.85
13.	Kandla Port, Bhuj, Gandhidham-Kota stone flooring on platforms.	11.56